

THE SENATE

Thursday, February 8, 1951

The Senate met at 3 p.m., the Acting Speaker (Hon. J. H. King) in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

NEW SENATOR INTRODUCED

The following newly-appointed senator was introduced and took his seat:

Hon. Herman W. Quinton, of St. John's Newfoundland, introduced by Hon. Wishart McL. Robertson and Hon. Ray Petten.

PRIVATE BILL

FIRST READING

Hon. Mr. Lambert presented Bill H, an Act respecting the Dominion Association of Chartered Accountants.

The bill was read the first time.

The Hon. the Acting Speaker: When shall this bill be read the second time?

Hon. Mr. Lambert: Next sitting.

PRIVATE BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. John T. Haig moved the second reading of Bill B, an Act to incorporate the Hutterian Brethren Church.

He said: Honourable senators, I will not delay you with a long explanation. The bill complies with the Act referred to in the rules. The people to be incorporated are followers in religion of the original missionary named Hutter, who came from Holland and settled in South Dakota, U.S.A. These people are all farmers and settle in what they call colonies, and the first colonies that came to Canada moved to Manitoba in 1917. They buy tracts of land and carry on general farming. Since 1917 some colonies have moved to Alberta, and now they are established in the two provinces.

They are first-class farmers and fine people. In Manitoba they comply strictly with the law and have well conducted schools, and I presume the same is true in Alberta. We have never had any trouble with them at all. When the last war started they were at first exempted from military service, but some of their young men did volunteer and join the forces, and the people as a whole did fine work in helping the Red Cross and other such patriotic bodies.

The purpose of the bill is to incorporate the persons named therein as a body politic and corporate. A curious fact which will be

noticed from the list of incorporators is that they are nearly all named Hofer, a name which is very common among these people. They are a very democratic group and each colony holds its own elections, at which it chooses its cleryman, manager, and officers. Every member of the colony over the age of twenty-one has a vote in these elections.

As I have said, in Manitoba we have never had the slightest trouble at all from these people. In our province there has been some criticism of their practice of buying large tracts of land, because it has been said that this makes it more difficult to establish and maintain what might be called a settled community. However, this complaint has been investigated more than once by the legislature, and nothing has ever come of it. I know a good many of these people personally, and before I came to the Senate I acted,—at least, my firm acted—as solicitor for them. They are a very fine type of people, and I am pleased to see that they are asking for the incorporation of the Hutterian Brethren Church.

For the information of honourable senators, I may say that the *Toronto Star* of about two weeks ago published a history of the Hutterian people. The article is well worth reading.

When this bill has been given second reading, I shall move that it be referred to the Committee on Miscellaneous Private Bills.

Hon. Mr. Reid: May I ask the honourable gentleman in how many provinces this church will operate?

Hon. Mr. Haig: The Act of course will apply to the whole of Canada, but the activities of the church will be carried on only in the provinces of Manitoba and Alberta.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the second time.

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

Hon. Mr. Haig moved that the bill be referred to the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Private Bills.

The motion was agreed to.

PRIVATE BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. Norman P. Lambert moved the second reading of Bill C, an Act to amend the United Church of Canada Act.

He said: Honourable senators, the explanatory note on the right-hand page of the bill sets out adequately the reasons for this legislation. Its purpose is to amend section 18 of the United Church of Canada Act, passed in 1924, and dealing with the investment privileges of the church.